

REMARKS

Applicants have amended Claim 7, as set forth in the attachment hereto, to correct its dependency to dependency from Claim 6, rather than Claim 5. By so doing, Applicants have corrected the inadvertent absence of antecedent basis for the term “the reflective surfaces” in Claim 7.

As no new matter is introduced, entry of the amendment to the claims is respectfully requested.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

In light of the above amendments, and the comments set forth below, withdrawal of the rejection of all claims, and declaration of an interference as originally requested, December 31, 2001, is respectfully requested. The objections and rejections of the action are treated, below.

At Items 1-3 of the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected over Claims 1, 4 and 5 of commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/050,994, and for same invention double patenting. U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/050,954 has been amended so as to distinguish the claims of the two applications, accompanied by a Terminal Disclaimer. Further, the applications have been amended to recite the same inventive entity. Accordingly, the outstanding rejections are met, and withdrawal is respectfully requested.

The objection for informality in Claim 7 has been met by amendment.

All claims pending stand rejected as anticipated over U.S. Patent 6,169,624, and anticipated or obvious over U.S. Patent 6,233,087. The effective date of the '624 patent, as a reference is August 11, 1999. The effective date of the '087 patent is December 18, 1998.

Submitted herewith is the Declaration of the inventors, corroborated by the Declaration of Berger, under 37 C.F.R. §1.608(b). The Declarations establish possession of the invention by the inventors in advance of the earliest effective date of the two references, that is, in advance of December 18, 1998. Accordingly, these two patents are removed as references under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Applicants note that the '087 patent claims subject matter patentably distinct from that claimed herein. Applicants further note, however, that the '624 patent is directed to subject matter not patentably distinct from that claimed herein. As it is not a reference under any other section of 35 U.S.C. §102, a declaration of interference, as originally requested upon filing, is

now appropriate. The same is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Kelber', is written over a horizontal line.

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